

# SENATE BILL 474

F1  
HB 1486/10 – W&M

11r1826  
CF HB 191

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By: **Senators Madaleno, Colburn, Currie, Forehand, Manno, Middleton, Pugh, Raskin, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2011

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – Student Attendance – Preventing Chronic Absenteeism**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring certain schools to maintain a record of the daily  
4 attendance of certain students using a certain identifier, calculate and maintain  
5 a certain record of certain student attendance information, and submit a certain  
6 report to the county board of education that includes certain student attendance  
7 information at certain times each year; requiring each county board of  
8 education to calculate and maintain a certain record of certain attendance  
9 information; requiring each county board to report certain information to the  
10 State Board of Education at least a certain number of times each year; requiring  
11 each county board to develop and implement a certain attendance incentive  
12 action plan that includes certain information; defining certain terms; and  
13 generally relating to tracking and reporting student attendance in public  
14 schools.

15 BY adding to

16 Article – Education

17 Section 4–127

18 Annotated Code of Maryland

19 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
21 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 **Article – Education**

23 **4–127.**

24 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE**  
25 **MEANINGS INDICATED.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(2) “CHRONIC ABSENCE” MEANS A FAILURE TO ATTEND SCHOOL**  
2 **FOR EXCUSED AND UNEXCUSED REASONS FOR 20 OR MORE DAYS IN A SCHOOL**  
3 **YEAR.**

4           **(3) “HIGH ATTENDANCE” MEANS MAINTAINING DAILY**  
5 **ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL WHILE MISSING ONLY 4 DAYS OR LESS FOR EXCUSED**  
6 **OR UNEXCUSED REASONS IN A SCHOOL YEAR.**

7           **(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO STUDENTS ENROLLED IN**  
8 **KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 12TH GRADE.**

9           **(C) A COUNTY BOARD SHALL REQUIRE EACH SCHOOL WITHIN THE**  
10 **JURISDICTION OF THE COUNTY BOARD TO:**

11           **(1) MAINTAIN A RECORD OF THE DAILY ATTENDANCE OF EACH**  
12 **STUDENT ENROLLED IN THE SCHOOL USING THE UNIQUE STUDENT IDENTIFIER**  
13 **NUMBER ASSIGNED BY THE DEPARTMENT;**

14           **(2) CALCULATE AND MAINTAIN A RECORD OF THE NUMBER OF**  
15 **STUDENTS WHO EITHER ARE CHRONICALLY ABSENT OR HAVE HIGH**  
16 **ATTENDANCE, IDENTIFIED BY THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:**

17                   **(I) GRADE LEVEL;**

18                   **(II) RACE AND ETHNICITY;**

19                   **(III) LIMITED-ENGLISH PROFICIENCY STATUS;**

20                   **(IV) SPECIAL EDUCATION STATUS; AND**

21                   **(V) ANY OTHER FEDERAL OR STATE DEFINED SUBGROUP;**

22 **AND**

23           **(3) SUBMIT TO THE COUNTY BOARD A REPORT ON THE**  
24 **INFORMATION MAINTAINED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION FOR EACH GRADING**  
25 **PERIOD.**

26           **(D) (1) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL CALCULATE AND MAINTAIN A**  
27 **RECORD OF THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE**  
28 **COUNTY BOARD WHO EITHER ARE CHRONICALLY ABSENT OR HAVE HIGH**  
29 **ATTENDANCE BASED ON THE REPORTS OF EACH SCHOOL SUBMITTED TO THE**  
30 **COUNTY BOARD UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, IDENTIFIED BY THE**  
31 **FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:**

- 1                   **(I) TYPE OF SCHOOL;**
- 2                   **(II) GRADE LEVEL;**
- 3                   **(III) RACE AND ETHNICITY;**
- 4                   **(IV) LIMITED-ENGLISH PROFICIENCY STATUS;**
- 5                   **(V) SPECIAL EDUCATION STATUS; AND**
- 6                   **(VI) ANY OTHER FEDERAL OR STATE DEFINED SUBGROUP.**

7                   **(2) THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL REPORT THE INFORMATION**  
8 **COLLECTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION TO THE STATE**  
9 **BOARD AT LEAST ONE TIME EACH YEAR.**

10           **(E) (1) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN**  
11 **ATTENDANCE INCENTIVE ACTION PLAN TO:**

12                   **(I) ENCOURAGE STUDENTS WITH CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM**  
13 **TO ATTEND SCHOOL REGULARLY; AND**

14                   **(II) INFORM STUDENTS WITH CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM AND**  
15 **THE PARENTS OR GUARDIANS OF THOSE STUDENTS OF:**

16                           **1. LEGAL ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS AND**  
17 **LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES OF CHRONIC SCHOOL ABSENTEEISM; AND**

18                           **2. THE ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS OF**  
19 **REGULAR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.**

20           **(2) THE ATTENDANCE INCENTIVE ACTION PLAN SHALL INCLUDE:**

21                   **(I) CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM PREVENTION STRATEGIES;**

22                   **(II) EARLY INTERVENTION STRATEGIES;**

23                   **(III) POSITIVE ATTENDANCE CAMPAIGNS;**

24                   **(IV) PARENTAL OUTREACH; AND**

25                   **(V) STUDENT ATTENDANCE INCENTIVES.**

1           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2   July 1, 2011.